

The Urban District Council of Caterham.

S

Report of the Medical Officer of Health.

THE PRIORY,

CATERHAM VALLEY.

FEBRUARY, 1908.

To the Chairman and Members of the Urban District Council of Caterham.

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present to you my Annual Report as Medical Officer of Health for the year ending the 31st day of December, 1907, of the District over which you preside.

Area, Statistics and Population.

The area comprises 2438 acres, with a population of:—

For Caterham (estimated)...	9519
For Asylum 	2031
For Barracks 	886
Total 	12436

With the above population there have been 196 births and 68 deaths during the year, giving respectively a birth rate of 20.5 and a death rate of 7.3 per 1000 of the population.

The population of Asylum and Barracks have been excluded in estimating the above rates.

Infectious Diseases.

During the year the following Infectious diseases have been reported viz:—50 cases of Scarlet Fever, 22 cases of Erysipelas, 1 case of Enteric Fever, 1 case of Peurperal Fever and 5 cases of Diptheria, making a total of 79 cases.

The number of cases of Scarlet Fever, as last year, continue to be high for the District, but this disease has been very prevalent during the past eighteen months in and around London.

12 cases were sent to the Isolation Hospital.

The other cases of notifiable disease call for no special comment, except that the majority of the cases of Erysipelas were reported from amongst the inmates of the Metropolitan Asylum, and the greater incidence of this disease was probably due to the cold and wet summer.

Infant Life Mortality.

The number of deaths of Infants, i.e. children under one year of age, in the District during the year has been 9, representing a death rate of 45.9 per 1000 births. Very few of these deaths were due to preventable causes and there is a marked improvement

in the care of newly born children, especially in the matter of feeding ; this I attribute to the good work done by trained midwives now practising in the District and a more general intelligent interest taken by mothers in the care of their children.

General Hygienic Proceedings.

The Scheme for the sewerage of the Hill District has been in progress during the year, and will be completed within the next few months.

The Sanitary Defects remedied during the year are as following:—

Drainage Defects	...	100
Non-provision of Dust Bins	...	14
Nuisances from Manure	...	4
Defective Walls, Floors, Windows or Roofs	9	
Nuisances from Poultry Keeping or other		
Animals	...	2
W.C. Defects	...	1
E.C. Defects	...	8
Dust Nuisance	...	1
Smoke Nuisance	...	2
Sundry Defects	...	7
TOTAL		148

Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops Order.

There are 12 Cowkeepers and 15 Registered Dairymen and purveyors of milk in the District.

Examinations prove that the milk supply has been good during the year, and therefore calls for no comment. The Cattle sheds, Dairies, and Milkshops comply with the Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops order, as also the Bye-Laws of the District.

Slaughter Houses.

The five Slaughter-houses continue to be well kept.

Water Supply.

The periodical Water Analyses have been highly satisfactory.

Sewage Disposal.

During the past year 5,535,200 gallons of sewage have been removed. This shows an increase of 383,200 gallons as compared with last year's figures. The earth closets are cleansed twice a week.

Removal of House Refuse.

The Council have caused to be removed 3112 loads of House Refuse from the dwellings of residents during the year.

Overcrowding.

One case of overcrowding has been successfully dealt with during the year.

Factory and Workshops Act 1901.

The Bakehouses, Laundries and Workshops are in compliance with the Act and well suited to their several purposes. Only one underground bakehouse exists in the District.

Private Street Works Act 1892.

The work of making up of Grange Road has been completed during the year.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

S. DAVEY,

Medical Officer of Health for the Urban District of Caterham.

